

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending. Claims 1-3 and 26-28 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 13-22 have been allowed. Claims 4-9 have been canceled herein. Claim 10 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Applicants' Response to the Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to claims 10-12 because of the misspelling of the word "larger." Applicant has made the correction and respectfully requests removal of the objection.

Applicants' Response to the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Singh et al.* (USP 6,518,146) in view of the admitted prior art; claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Singh et al.* in view of *Ishitsuka et al.* (USP 6,403,446) and claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Singh et al.* in view of *Ishitsuka et al.* and further in view of the admitted prior art. As claims 4-9 have been canceled herein, Applicant respectfully submits the rejections are now moot.

Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Singh et al.* in view of *van Bentum et al.* (US 20040119135) and claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Singh et al.* in view of *van Bentum et al.* and further in view of the admitted prior art. Applicant respectfully submits that *van Bentum et al.* has been overcome as a reference by perfecting the priority of the present

application to Japanese Application 2002-255471 filed August 30, 2002. *van Bentum et al.* has an effective filing date of May 23, 2003, as a prior art reference under §102(e).

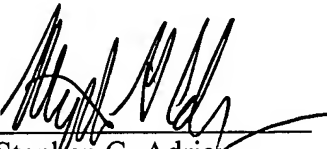
Therefore, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 23-25 has been overcome by the certified English language translation of the priority document attached hereto.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, it is believed that this application is not in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number below to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

By: 
Stephen G. Adrian
Reg. No.: 32,878
Attorney for Applicant
Tel: (202) 822-1100
Fax: (202) 822-1111

Attachments: Certified English Translation of JP Application No.: 2002-255471 with
Verification of Translation
MJC/SGA/rer